

Message Text

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SUBJECT: REPORT ON 7TH MEETING OF SECTOR GROUP ON THE
URBAN ENVIRONMENT. 25-27 NOVEMBER, 1974.

1. MEETING OPENED 25 NOV. WITH ORAL REPORT BY ENV.
DIRECTOR, DR. RODERICK OF RESULTS OF MINISTERIAL
MEEETING 13-14 NOV. RODERICK REPORTED MINISTERS PRIMARY
CONCERN IS SOLUTION TO URBAN PROBLEMS.
AMONG TEN RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED BY MINISTERS WERE
THOSE PROPOSED BY URBAN SECTOR GROUP (I.E. NOISE PREVEN-
TION & ABATEMENT ,TRAFFIC LIMITA-
TION AND LOW-COST IMPROVEMENT OF URBAN ENVIRONMENT).
2. PROGRESS REPORT ON TRAFFIC LIMITATIONS CONFERENCE -
PER RODERICK AND KUHNEMANN OECD CONFERENCE COVERS NARROW
AREA - NO CONFLICT ANTICIPATED WITH 1976 ECE CONFERENCE.
RESULTS OF OECD AVAILABLE FOR USE IN PREPARATION OF
1976 ECE CONFERENCE.

3. HUMAN SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE VANCOUVER,
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CANADA, MAY-JUNE 1976. SECTOR GROUP RECOMMENDED

SUBMISSION OF (A) LOW COST IMPROVEMENTS IN URBAN AREA (B) TRAFFIC REDUCTION IN URBAN AREA (C) ENVIRONMENTAL INDICATORS. US DELEGATION ENCOURAGED THE SUBMISSION OF AN AUDIO-VISUAL PRESENTATION AS RECOMMENDED BY UNITED NATIONS REPRESENTATIVE, MR. TURIN, DEP.SEC.GEN.OF "HABITAT". OECD SECRETARIAT COMPLAINED OF LACK OF RESOURCES TO PRESENT AUDIO-VISUAL. US DELEGATION SUGGESTED MEMBER COUNTRIES CONSIDER SPECIAL DONATIONS. DEADLINE FOR COMMITMENT FEB.1, 1975.

4. URBAN ENVIRONMENTAL INDICATORS - WORKING GROUP MET TO RESOLVE DIFFERENCES OF OPINION RE LIST OF INDICATORS, AND TO DEFINE PHASE II. COMPLEXITY OF TOPIC PRECLUDED COMPLETION OF AGENDA. SUGGESTED TENTATIVE PARTICIPATION IN PHASE II BY LOS ANGELES AND INDIANAPOLIS. US EXPRESSED CONCERN OF TIGHT SCHEDULE. WORKING GROUP MEETING SCHEDULED FEB. 1975.

5. URBAN NOISE ABATEMENT. GENERAL ACCEPTANCE OF "POLICIES FOR NOISE CONTROL" WITH WRITTEN COMMENTS TO SECRETARIAT BY DEC. 31, 74. MINISTERS RECOMMENDED THAT ENVCOM CONTINUE ITS WORK ON THIS TOPIC.

6. LOW-COST IMPROVEMENTS. THE SECRETARIAT INTRODUCED THIS SUBJECT FROM STANDPOINT OF LIST OF POSSIBLE IMPROVEMENTS AND IMPORTANCE OF COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING AS MEANS OF SCHEDULING WORK AND REDUCING COST. PRESENTATIONS WERE MADE BY U.K. NORWAY, AUSTRALIA, JAPAN, SWEDEN AND CANADA. THESE COVERED SEVERAL DIFFERENT APPROACHES TO LOW COST URBAN ENVIRONMENT. US REP NOTED SUBSTANTIAL US EXPERIENCE IN THIS AREA THROUGH FEDERALLY DIRECTED PROGRAMS, NOW SUPERSEDED BY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANTS MADE DIRECTLY TO RECIPIENTS, AND EXPLAINED IMPLICATIONS OF NEW ACT. US STRONGLY SUPPORTED THIS PROJECT AND ENCOURAGED EXPANSION OF THIS TYPE OF ACTIVITY.

7. FUTURE PROGRAM OF SECTOR GROUP: STUDY OF PUBLICLY OWNED LANDS. US (A) EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE OF LAND USE AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY; (B) RECOMMENDED THAT PROJECT UNCLASSIFIED

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NOT BE LIMITED TO PUBLIC LANDS; (C) STRESSED THAT COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING MUST HAVE LAND AND HOUSING ELEMENTS; (D) PROPOSED THAT FUTURE PROJECTS DEAL ALSO WITH QUESTIONS OF URBAN SERVICE DELIVERY E.G. FIRE, POLICE, WATER SUPPLY. SECRETARIAT WILL PREPARE SPECIFIC PROJECTS.

8. NEXT MEETING: MAY 5,6,7 1975

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